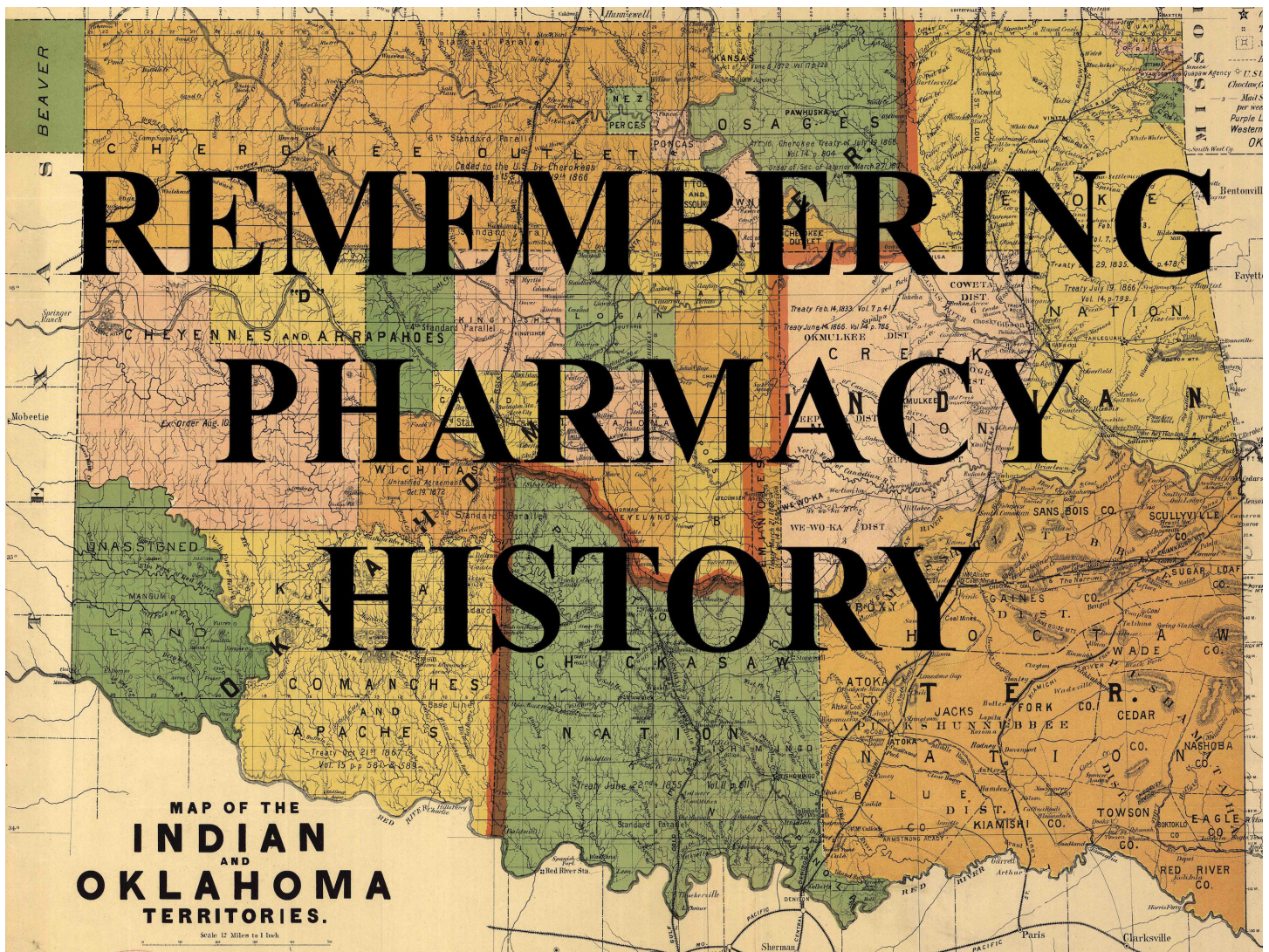


# OKPharmacy E-Newsletter

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**Oklahoma State Pharmacy Board Secretaries:  
John Clement Burton and Walter Ray Jarrett.**



*Cover Logo based on an  
1892 map of Indian and  
Oklahoma Territories in the  
United States Library of  
Congress.*



# Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy Secretaries: John Clement Burton and Walter Ray Jarrett.

Carl K. Buckner  
The University of Oklahoma  
College of Pharmacy

Oklahoma statehood brought about the merger of the boards of pharmacy of Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory. Numerous challenges facing the newly formed Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy were addressed and resolved during the early years of the agency. Profiles of the first two board secretaries are presented here.

## John Clement Burton (1907-1915)

John was born on May 29, 1853, in Union Township, Randolph County, Missouri. His parents, Lucius Tanner and Elizabeth Miller (Jeter) Burton, were born in Kentucky, and were farming in Randolph County at the time he was born. John attended local schools and, at the age of seventeen, moved a short distance west to Dalton, Char-



*John Clement and Dora Ellen (Miller) Burton. From Bill Johnson.*

ton County, Missouri, where he worked for two years in the Martin & John Drug Store. Afterward, he attended the First District Missouri State Normal School (now Truman State University) at Kirksville, Adair County, Missouri. Closer to home, John was also enrolled in Mount Pleasant College in Huntsville, Randolph County, Missouri. For several years during the 1870s, he was involved in non-pharmacy related businesses and learning the practice of medicine. In the early 1880s, he was living in Coin, Page County, Iowa, where he met his future wife.

John married Dora Ellen “Nellie” Miller on November 22, 1883, in Shenandoah, Page County, Iowa. Dora was born on July 28, 1864, in Macomb, McDonough County, Illinois. Her parents, David Wesley and Ale Ann (Fulton) Miller, were natives of Illi-

nois, married in McDonough County on January 14, 1848, and moved to Shenandoah in 1881. Dora was the ninth born of their twelve children.

After their first child died as an infant in November of 1884, John and Dora moved to St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas, where John practiced medicine. Five children were born to John and Dora while they lived in St. Francis - Glade Clement on October 21, 1885; Lucius Wesley Marmaduke on May 25, 1887; Mabel E. on March 17, 1889; Dora Vest on December 18, 1890; and Sylvia Caecile on February 7, 1893. Two more children - Nellie Aleann on April 19, 1901, and Daisy Ethel on December 12, 1904 - were born after John and Dora moved to Stroud, Lincoln County, Oklahoma Territory.

In about 1896, John and Dora moved the family to Hollis, Cloud County, Kansas, where they established a drug store. Dora obtained her early pharmacy experiences working in the store. John had developed a political inter-





*Stroud street scene, ca. 1906. From the author's collection.*



*View of the interior of John Burton's drug store in Stroud. From Bill Johnson.*





*John and Dora Burton sitting between daughters Nellie (left) and Daisie. Standing in the back row are, left to right, Caecile, Dora Vest, Lucius Wesley, Glade Clement, and Mabel. From Bill Johnson.*

est, having served as Chairman of the Democratic Central Committee in Cheyenne County. They probably moved to Hollis since it was closer to the seat of government than the far northwestern corner of Kansas. Following his political ambitions, John made an unsuccessful run for Democratic Congressman from Kansas in 1896, even though William Jennings Bryan, Democratic candidate for president, carried the state.

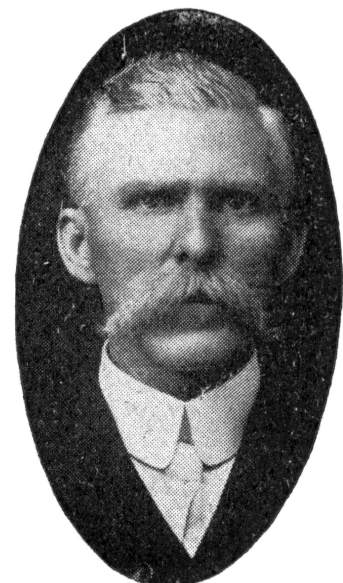
Perhaps seeing that a political life was not in his future, John took the pharmacy examination on December 8, 1897, in Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. After making a passing grade, he received a pharmacist certificate from the Kansas Board of Pharmacy. In April of the following year, the family moved to Stroud, where he established one of the early drug stores in town. On July 12, 1898, he passed the territorial pharmacy examination at El Reno in Canadian County and was issued certificate number 225 by the Oklahoma Territory Board of Pharmacy.

The Burton Drug Store in Stroud became a pharmacy training ground for family members, including Dora Ellen, who worked in the store from its beginning. In addition, the Burton children were exposed to the profession by being present, perhaps daily, in the drug store. The two oldest sons, Glade and Lucius, developed an interest in pharmacy strong enough that they eventually engaged in the drug business for themselves.

Glade Burton graduated from The University of Oklahoma (OU) School of Pharmacy in 1906. On April 10 of that year, he applied for a pharmacist license on the basis of his impending graduation with a Pharmaceutical Chemist (Ph.C.) diploma, paid the five dollar fee, and was issued certificate number 739 by the Oklahoma Territory Board of Pharmacy. Glade returned to Stroud to practice pharmacy in the Burton Drug Store.



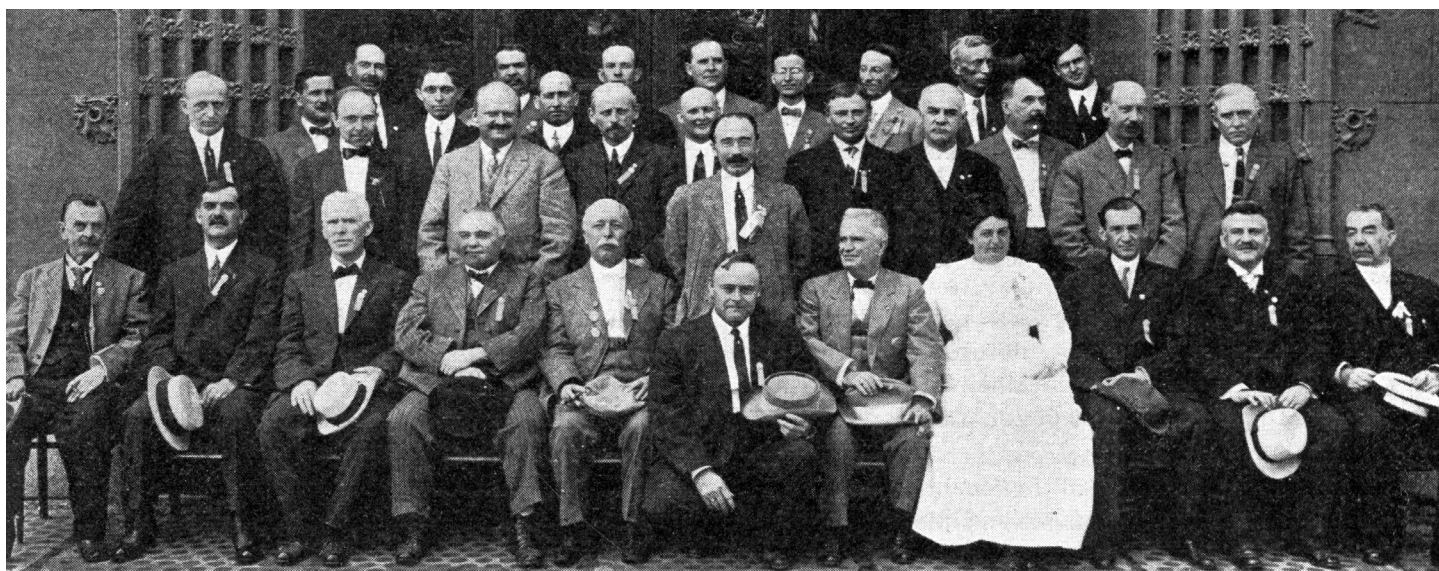
Almost from the time he came to Stroud, John Burton was an active participant in the pharmacy community of Oklahoma Territory. He became a member of the Oklahoma Territory Pharmaceutical Association (OTPhA) in 1899. At the annual meeting of the OTPhA in April of 1900, John was elected first vice-president of the organization and spoke on "How Are We To Increase Our Trade and Profit." He continued as vice-president the following year and, in 1902, assumed the presidency at the annual meeting in Enid. He wrapped up his presidential year at the 1903 meeting in Oklahoma City by emphasizing to the attendees that pharmacy is a business as well as a profession. His political interests led him further to suggest to the group that pharmacy legislation needed to be changed in order to give the Board of Pharmacy the power necessary to prosecute violators.



*John Clement Burton,  
OTPhA President, 1902.  
From OPhA files.*

John's hard-nosed approach to pharmacy law enforcement was well-received by pharmacists in the territory. He continued to express the need for legislative action in support of the profession and became friends with many powerful politicians of Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory. One of those was Charles Nathaniel Haskell, a fellow democrat who was elected, in 1907, to be the first governor of the new state of Oklahoma. On Monday, November 18, 1907, two days after the official start of statehood and his inauguration, Governor Haskell announced that he had appointed John to the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy. Other members of the board were Foress Ball Lillie of Guthrie in Logan County and William Francis Dodd of Caddo in Bryan County. The three members organized on the following Saturday, November 23, and elected John secretary, a position he would retain until he left the board in 1915.

During his tenure as secretary of the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy, John helped the profession advance through more stringent enforcement of existing laws, including a crackdown on itinerant drug vendors and a campaign against the non-prescription sales of cocaine and other narcotics. In addition, he served on several of



*Members of the NABP at the 1912 meeting of the APhA in Denver, Colorado. Future president John Burton is seated third from the left. Another Oklahoma pharmacist and past president of the NABP, Foress Ball Lillie, is standing in the back row, second from the right. From Meyer Brothers Druggist, 33 (September, 1912): 279.*





*Sapulpa street scene with Frisco Drug Store on the right. From the author's collection.*



*Sapulpa street scene with Frisco Drug Store on the right. From the author's collection.*



the legislative committees of the Oklahoma Pharmaceutical Association (OPhA) focused on making changes in the pharmacy law of the state.

John participated actively as a member of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). In 1912, he served as chairman of the organization's Legislative Committee which developed recommendations for reciprocal registration between the states. When the NABP met in August of 1915 at the annual meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association (APhA) in San Francisco, California, John was elected president. After serving his presidential year, he remained a member of the organization's Executive Committee for two years. Perhaps because of mounting pressures from his many activities, John resigned from the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy in 1915.

In the years between his election as secretary of the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy and as president of the NABP, John continued to operate his drug store in Stroud with the help of Dora Ellen and Glade. He also invested extensively in farm land and helped to organize the Democratic Party in Lincoln County, serving as Chairman of the county's Democratic Central Committee for more than thirty years. John is said to have dictated the political policies of a local newspaper, *The Stroud Democrat*, to his son Dora Vest, who was editor of the paper. Active in Stroud community affairs, John served on the local school board and as mayor. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge, Modern Woodmen of America, Woodmen of the World, and Maccabees.

The years after Oklahoma statehood were extremely busy for all members of the Burton family. Dora Ellen, who learned pharmacy by working in the Burton Drug Stores in Hollis and Stroud, passed the pharmacy examination on May 18, 1909, to become a registered pharmacist in Oklahoma. Lucius passed the examination on his second attempt on July 12, 1911. Pharmacist certificate numbers issued to the Burtons by the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy were 3 for John, 5 for Glade, 1537 for Dora Ellen, and 2137 for Lucius.

Shortly before Lucius became a licensed pharmacist, the Burton family opened a drug store in Sapulpa, Creek County, Oklahoma. This store was known at various times as Burton & Company, Burton Brothers Drug, and the Frisco Drug Store. In 1915, the Sapulpa drug store was sold and Lucius, who had been manager, moved to Depew, Creek County, Oklahoma, to open another drug store. In 1916, he opened a branch store in nearby Shamrock and soon received a commission as postmaster of the Creek County town. Moving to Shamrock that year, Lucius incorporated the drug stock from Depew in the new store. In 1920, in partnership with Roy Aubrey and H. W.



*Shamrock street scene, ca. 1916. From the author's collection.*



Rhodes, he bought the drug stock of the Shamrock Drug Company from T. C. Moessner and J. C. Pitchford.

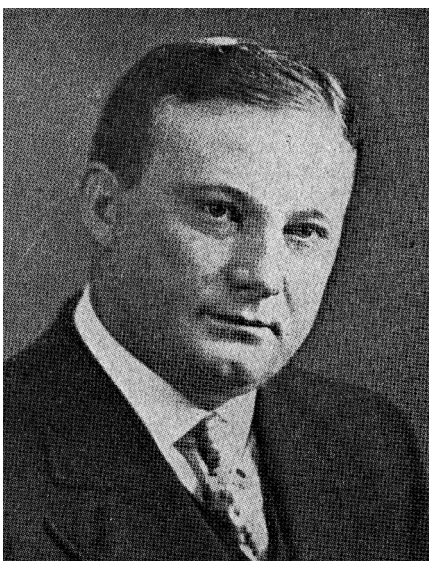
Like his father, Lucius had ambitions in the political arena as a member of the Democratic Party. In 1920 and 1922, he ran unsuccessful campaigns for County Commissioner. In order to focus in his 1922 run, Lucius sold his interest in the drug store in Shamrock. After the 1922 elections, he became Registrar at the Oklahoma A & M College (now Oklahoma State University) and moved to Stillwater.

In the summer of 1911, while living in Sapulpa, Glade was elected secretary-treasurer of the Oklahoma Rexall Club. He was also an active member of the pharmaceutical association, beginning in 1906. In Sapulpa on June 18, 1916, Glade married Katie Lou Paris, who was born in 1891 in Tennessee. They had four children, Glade Clement, Jr., Katherine Gayle, Marjorie, and Dorothy. His only son, Glade or "Clem," a Captain in the United States 25th Fighter Squadron of the 51st Fighter Group, did not return home from a solo reconnaissance flight over China during World War II. Glade, Sr., owned and managed Burton Drug Store in Stroud until selling the store to Harold Sutton and Claude Fowler and retiring in 1946. He died in Stroud on May 6, 1969.

Lucius reciprocated his Oklahoma pharmacy license to Washington D. C. in 1937. He also worked in Washington for the Rubber Reserve Corporation, created by the United States Government to support synthetic rubber production during World War II. Before leaving Oklahoma, he married Florence Maine, who was born in 1896 in Kansas. They had four sons, Lucius Wesley, Jr., J. C., John, and Robert. The older three were in the United States Navy at the time that Lucius died on May 5, 1944, in Bethesda, Maryland.

Dora Ellen Burton died in Stroud on January 27, 1931. After her death, John was reappointed as a member of the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy and served until February of 1932, when he resigned to become State Drug Inspector for the board. He left that position in the mid-1930s, resuming full-time interest in the Burton Drug Store in Stroud. He died in Stroud on February 24, 1939, and is interred with Dora in the Rose Hill Mausoleum in Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma. Their daughter Daisie, who taught school in several Oklahoma school systems, including Jenks and Stroud, was killed in an automobile accident a few months later, on August 30.

John Clement Burton's mother, Elizabeth, died in Randolph County on December 14, 1887. His father, Lucius, died in Stroud on October 7, 1909. They are both buried in the Antioch Christian Cemetery, Moberly, Randolph County, Missouri. Dora's father, David Wesley Miller died in Stroud on July 31, 1908, and is buried in the Stroud Cemetery. Her mother, Ale Ann died on February 15, 1912, and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Macomb, Illinois.



*Walter Ray Jarrett. From OPhA files.*

## Walter Ray Jarrett (1915-1923)

Walter Ray Jarrett was born on March 7, 1886, in Hickory, Catawba County, North Carolina. His parents, William Samuel and Mattie (Keever) Jarrett, brought the family to Wynnewood, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, in 1888. William had been a member of the Confederate Army, Company B of the Eighth North Carolina Infantry, during the American Civil War. Walter was educated in Wynnewood schools and moved with the family to Wetumka, Creek Nation, Indian Territory, in about 1901. That was about the time that Wetumka was starting to grow as a result of the St. Louis, Oklahoma, and Southern railway being built through town.

At about fifteen years of age, Walter began working in Wetumka drug stores. Between February 1, 1903, and May 1, 1903, he was employed in a drug store in McCurtain, Choctaw Nation, Indian Ter-



Sole Proprietor of Red Cross  
Chill and Fever Cure.

Prescriptions Accurately Compounded  
Day and Night

## J. R. DUTTON

DEALER IN

DRUGS, PATENT MEDICINES, SCHOOL BOOKS,  
TOILET SOAPS, PERFUMERY, STATIONERY.

Wetumka, Ind. Terr.

Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 1906

To Whom this May Concern:

This will certify that  
Walter R Jarrett has been filling prescriptions  
for me and other physicians since sometime  
during the year of 1901 and so far as I know  
with entire satisfaction to both physician  
and patient

Yours very truly  
J. A. Gafford M.D.

Letter of reference written on J. R. Dutton stationery by J. A. Gafford, physician at Wetumka, for Walter Jarrett in 1906. From ODL files.

ritory. In June of that year, he began compounding and dispensing at the drug store of John Rufas Dutton in Wetumka. During part of his time with Dutton, Walter attended the School of Pharmacy at The University of Oklahoma. He graduated with a Pharmaceutical Chemist (Ph.C.) diploma in 1906. On October 17, 1906, he was issued certificate number 932 by the Indian Territory Board of Pharmacy. The Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy gave him license number 434 in 1908.

Walter opened the Jarrett Drug Company store in Wetumka at about the time of Oklahoma statehood. In 1909, he married Clyde Sipes of Durant. She was born in Missouri in 1889, a daughter of Thomas and Lucy (Butler) Sipes. Walter and Clyde had one child, Ronald, born about 1912.

As Walter's drug store in Wetumka grew, he began to invest in land and oil in the Wetumka area, located in Hughes County at statehood. In 1915, he was appointed by Governor Robert Lee Williams as secretary of the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy to replace John Clement Burton. He was reappointed in 1919 by Governor James Brooks Ayers Robertson to remain secretary of the board.

The first board meeting over which Walter presided was held on July 15, 1915. One of Walter's first official actions as a result of that meeting was to issue, in August of 1915, a statement that the board intended to enforce the





*Machine Gun Kelly, handcuffed and escorted from the Shelby County, Tennessee, jail by police-men, destined for trial in Oklahoma City, 1933. From the author's collection.*

laws requiring a registered pharmacist to be in charge of compounding and filling prescriptions at each drug store in the state. Furthermore, other abuses that were to be fully prosecuted by the new administration were violations of prohibition and the practice by drug store proprietors of “borrowing” certificates from retired pharmacists to make it appear that a pharmacist was on duty.

Walter began attending meetings of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) soon after becoming secretary. In 1917, he was elected second vice-president of the NABP and, in 1919, became president of the organization. Walter also served as president of District 6 of the NABP.

In 1923, the new Governor, John Callaway Walton, selected Tom Hadley to replace Walter as pharmacy board secretary. Walter had sold his drug store in Wetumka in about 1922. After being replaced by Hadley, he became associated with the Alexander Drug Company. At Alexander's, he was in charge of Sales Promotion for the company's products that included Aduco Remedies, Wyldewood Perfumes and Toilet Preparations, and Blue Package Drugs. It soon became clear, however, that Walter's interests in oil overshadowed those in pharmacy. By 1928 he was devoting full attention to his oil company with offices in Oklahoma City's Petroleum Building.

Walter and Clyde became good friends with the well-known Oklahoma City oil millionaires Charles Frederick and Bernice Urschel. The couples socialized frequently and Walter and Charles had business connections in the



oil industry. On the evening of July 22, 1933, the Jarretts were playing bridge in the sun room of the Urschel mansion on Northwest 18th Street in Oklahoma City. George Kelly Barnes, alias “Machine Gun Kelly,” and members of his gang broke into the house with the intent of kidnapping Charles Urschel and holding him for ransom. Since the kidnappers did not know which of the men was Urschel, both were blindfolded and taken from the house. Walter was robbed of a little over fifty dollars and released along a deserted road about eight miles northeast of the city after the gang discovered that he was not Urschel.

Walter eventually found a ride back into the city and reported his adventure to the police. A sum of \$200,000 was paid and Urschel was freed by the Kelly gang. Subsequently, the evidence given by Jarrett and Urschel helped to disclose the story and to identify Kelly and other gang members. After Kelly was captured in Memphis, Tennessee, he was brought back to Oklahoma City for trial. The trial, held in September of 1933, resulted in the conviction and sentencing of Machine Gun Kelly, his wife Kathryn, and other members of the gang. Kelly was sent to Leavenworth prison in Kansas and, subsequently, to Alcatraz. After being returned to Leavenworth, Kelly died there on July 18, 1954. His wife, Kathryn was released from prison in 1958 and died in 1985. Charles Urschel moved to San Antonio, Texas, where he died on September 26, 1970.

In the late 1930s, Walter moved to Midland, Midland County, Texas, where he was with the Anderson-Prichard Oil Company. He died in Midland on February 16, 1947. Clyde eventually moved back to Oklahoma City where she died in July of 1982. They are buried at Memorial Park Cemetery in Oklahoma City.

## **Acknowledgements**

The author expresses appreciation for support to William B. “Bill” Johnson of Dallas, Texas, and to Jan Davis, Carol Williams, Linda Raulston, Linda Colbert, and Colleen Greene, professionals in the Archives and Records Division at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) in Oklahoma City.

## **Bibliographic**

Information and images for these biographies were collected from many sources. William B. “Bill” Johnson, a descendant of John Clement Burton, provided substantial information as well as images on his ancestor. Other resources included files at the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association (OPhA) office in Oklahoma City as well as various issues of Oklahoma Pharmacist, Meyer Brothers Druggist, Pharmaceutical Era, The Midwestern Druggist, The Western Druggist, Southern Pharmaceutical Journal, and newspapers from Kansas City, Missouri, and Oklahoma City, Guthrie, Sapulpa, Shamrock, Chandler, and Stroud, Oklahoma. Genealogical information for J. C. Burton was also found in Rex Francis Harlow and Victor Emmanuel Harlow, *Makers of Government in Oklahoma*. (Oklahoma City, Harlow Publishing Company, 1930): 345. In addition, United States census, birth, marriage, and death records available on the internet sites rootsweb.com and familysearch.org have provided valuable family-related data. The ERA and Hayes Druggists directories have been used to trace pharmacy locations in Oklahoma. Especially beneficial for biographical information have been pharmacist applications for licensure as well as records of the Oklahoma Territory, Indian Territory, and Oklahoma State Boards of Pharmacy located in the Archives and Records Division of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL).